

# MERCATOR:

O R,

## Commerce Retrieved;

B E I N G

### CONSIDERATIONS on the State of the *British Trade, &c.*

From Saturday, July 25. to Tuesday, July 27. 1713.

*The mortal Blow to the SCHEME, promised in the last.*

*The Report made by the Commissioners of the Customs to the House of Lords.*

*An Abstract of the Difference of Exportations between the out-Ports and the Port of London, to prove the Reckoning the out-Ports to be One third of the Port of London, to be a false Rule.*

*More of several sorts of Manufactures, and other Goods, Exported from the out-Ports, than from London.*

THE last MERCATOR led things back of Course to that shameful Paper, to give it no worse a Title, called, The SCHEME; the thing it self can by no means be worth so much Notice; but the weight put upon it by those People, who handed it about as an Authentick Proof of the smallness of our Trade to France, makes the speaking so often of it become necessary.

The Charge of Falsity, which was laid upon it in this Paper, has been answered no otherwise, but by the old way which was formerly said to be practised against Bellarmine; and that even this too may be effectually Silenced, the following Paper, presented to the House of Lords by the Commissioners of the Customs, is added to what has been said before, and, it is hoped, may be sufficient.

The modesty of the Commissioners, in taking so little notice of the gross Collusion and fraudulent Design of the SCHEME, concealing the true Quantities, under-rating the value of the Woollen Manufactures Exported, over-rating the value of the French Goods Imported, and the like; ought to be no Objection against this Report; the Matters of Fact will have their due Weight, with considering and upright Men, tho' not farther enlarged upon: But this, in the mean time, may be observed, (viz.) That the Omissions on one Side, and the Additions to the other, are so great in this Paper, that if things are justly Estimated on both Sides, and the Export of the out-Ports added, as they ought to be, the French Trade will appear, even in THAT very Year, to be very much to the Advantage of England, as will be more particularly Explain'd, and prov'd hereafter. Mean time, the following Report may put all the Patrons of the SCHEME to Silence, unless they can detect the said Report of being False, which they will not be able to do.

To the Right Honorable the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, in Parliament Assembled.

*May it please your Lordships,*

" Your Lordships having been pleased, in your Order of the 17th Instant, to direct the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Customs to lay before your Lordships such Objections as appear to them, in rela-

" tion to the Scheme of Trade between England and France, which they laid before your Lordships on the 13th Instant: In Obedience thereunto, the said Commissioners do humbly report, that at the foot of the Account of the Woollen and Silk Manufactures in the said Scheme the following Words; (viz.) This was the full of what was Exported according to the Custom-house Books in the Port of London from Michaelmas 1668. to Michaelmas 1669. They compared the said Account with the Exports of the Woollen Manufactures in the Custom-house Books of the Port of London, Extracts whereof are now lying before your Lordships; by which they find, there was greater Quantities of Woollen Manufacture Exported from London that Year, than is mentioned in the Scheme: as will appear to your Lordships by the following Comparisons; viz.

Names of the Species.	Quantities by the Scheme.	Quantities by the Custom-house Books.
Pieces of Norwich Stuffs.	354	1702
Pieces of Serges and Perpetua's	5564	7581
Pieces of single Bays	2288	1660
Small Minikin Bays	166	168
Small double Bays	464	286
Dozen Mens worsted Hose	2140	1117
Dozen Mens woollen Hose	832	5820
Dozen Childrens Hose	1172	1172
Yards of Flannel	400	1215
Hundred Goads of Cotton	1200	1024
Long Cloths	312	349
Short Cloths	42	54 Spanish

Spanish Cloths	829	2049
Double Northern Doz.	97	305
Single Northern Species	69	162
Penstons	6	161
Kerries	3585	5097

" Several of the out-Port Books being wanting, for the Year mentioned in the Scheme, whereby the Commissioners might judge of the Proportion the out-Ports bear to London, in the Exportation of the Woollen Manufacture to France; they caused the Accounts of other Years, which have been lately prepared, by Order of the House of Commons, to be Examined, and find, that the Proportion of One third for the out-Ports, being the allowance mentioned in the Scheme, is not a sufficient Proportion; for as much as it appears by those Accounts, that the quantities of Stuffs and Serges Exported, which are considerable Articles of the Woollen Manufactures in the Trade to France, were much greater in those Years from the out-Ports, than from the Port of London.

" The Commissioners observe, that the Goods from the British Plantations, as Sugar, Cotton, Tobacco, &c. and also those from India, and other Foreign Parts, Re-exported from this Kingdom to France, which amount to a very considerable Sum, are not taken Notice of in the said Scheme; and tho' they are not of the Product and Manufacture of England, yet they humbly conceive, they should not have been omitted in a Ballance of the Exports to, and Imports from France.

" The Commissioners do likewise humbly take Notice to your Lordships, that the Accounts of Importations by the Scheme, being Computations for all

*Goods Exported to France in the Year  
1686-7, or 1687-8.*

Bayes	—	—	—
Cloth Rashes	—	—	—
Serges and Perpetuana's	—	—	—
Stuffs and Sayes	—	—	—
Fustians	—	—	—
Devon Dozens	—	—	—
Tann'd Leather per l.	—	—	—
Tann'd Hides	—	—	—
Herrings	—	per Barrel	—
Aleom	—	per Ton	—
Tobacco	—	—	—
Tin	—	—	—
Wrought Pewter	—	—	—

" England, in gross Articles; the Commissioners on this Occasion making no Objections, but from Facts appearing in the Books of the Customs, cannot enter into an Examination of that part, because several Books out of the out-Ports for that Year, as they have before reported, are wanting.

" From all which, the Commissioners humbly conclude, the *said Scheme* could not be taken from the Custom-House Books; and they are confirmed in their Opinion, because they do not find any Notice taken of that *Scheme* in their Office, that the same was prepared by Order of the Commissioners of the Customs.

All which is humbly submitted to your Lordships Consideration.

Custom-House, London,  
23 June, 1713.

E. Gibbon.

J. Stanley.

J. Bridges.

Robert Williamson.

It may be worth observing after this, That the Commissioners of the Customs have said, in their Report above, that the Computation made by the SCHEME, between the Port of London and the out-Ports, is not just, (viz.) That One third is sufficient to Rate for the out-Ports, and Two thirds for the Port of London; and the Commissioners add, that the quantities of several Woollen Manufactures Exported to France, were much greater in those Years from the out-Ports, than from the Port of London.

That this is true, may be necessary to prove; and to that End, the Exportations of several sorts of Goods to France, in the Years 1686-7, and 1687-8. as well Woollen Manufactures, as others, are brought in here, by way of Testimony, to what the Commissioners have said; the quantities whereof, both in the Port of London, and the out-Ports, as it is drawn out of the Accounts of the Custom-House, laid before the House of Commons; are as follows,

	Port of London.	Out-Ports.	The Out-Ports more than the Port of Lond.
Bayes	1230½	2889½	1659
Cloth Rashes	24	557	533
Serges and Perpetuana's	5886	25569	19683
Stuffs and Sayes	48½	1211	727
Fustians	254	512	258
Devon Dozens	—	5310	5310
Tann'd Leather per l.	69672	688798	619126
Tann'd Hides	—	224	224
Herrings	1068	14085	13017
Aleom	17 13 C.	195	177
Tobacco	l. 169778	325903	156125
Tin	l. 221822	258168	36346
Wrought Pewter	—	14184	14184

And the like of other Goods.

By this may be seen, how unjust it is to Calculate the Exportation of the out-Ports to amount to but One third of the whole Exportation of Woollen Manufactures; the Reason of which is, because the proper Ports for the Exportation of those Goods being near the Countries, where they are made, great quantities

of them are Exported immediately at the next Ports, without being sent up to London at all, as the Serges from Exmouth, the Dozens from Weymouth, the Norwich Stuffs from Yarmouth, Bays from Colchester, the Lead at Hull, Tin at Falmouth, &c. and the like of Fish, very little of which can go from London.